

Message Text

SECRET

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20

ACTION XMB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

MC-02 L-03 ACDA-19 AID-20 DRC-01 /119 W

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R 100550Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8119

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

S E C R E T HONG KONG 9008

EO 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: ESTC ETRN HK CB

SUBJ: ANKAN SHIPPING COMPANY

REF: PHNOM PENH 9029

PASS EXIM

SUMMARY. THE CONGEN HAS OBTAINED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE ANKAN'S INTEREST IN A BOEING JETFOIL, AND REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON APPROPRIATE REPLY TO ANKAN. END SUMMARY

1. PRICE TAG ON BOEING JETFOIL IN WHICH ANKAN HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST HERE IS ABOUT US\$3.5 MILLION AND ANKAN THEREFORE WOULD HAVE TO PUT DOWN A MINIMUM OF US\$350,000 TO OBTAIN EXIM FINANCING. AS FOR AID FINANCING OF \$500,000 HYDROPHOIL (REFTEL), WE DOUBT TRANSPORT OF PASSENGERS AND CARGO BETWEEN BANGKOK, KOMPONG SOM AND HONG KONG (OR SINGAPORE) WOULD BE VIABLE GIVEN THE DISTANCES INVOLVED. IT IS POSSIBLE, OF COURSE, THAT A JETFOIL OR HYDROPHOIL COULD BE USED PROFITABLY FOR SHORTER RUNS. THIS WAS AMONG CONSIDERATIONS (ANKAN'S BACKGROUND OBVIOUSLY WAS ANOTHER) WHICH PROMPTED CONGEN TO INITIATE THE TELE-

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GRAPHIC PLAY ON ANKAN'S REQUEST. CONGEN FILES DO NOT

INDICATE TIE BETWEEN ANKAN AND MR HOEUR LAY INN, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE CONNECTION.

2. IN LETTER DATED AUGUST 29 RESPONDING TO CONGEN'S AUGUST 17 QUERY, MR KWOK HOK LAI, PHOUNAM TRADING CO STATED THAT JETFOIL WOULD BE REGISTERED IN LIBERIA; WOULD BE OWNED BY PACIFIC AIR TRANSPORT CORPORATION LTD INCORPORATED HONG KONG; MR KWOK CHEUNG KWONG WOULD OWN 40 PERCENT SHARE, OTHER KHMER PARTNERS 60 PERCENT; FUNDS WOULD BE RAISED BY THESE SHARE HOLDERS; AND JETFOIL WOULD BE USED AS A PASSENGER CARRIER PLYING BETWEEN KOMPONG SOM, BANGKOK AND SINGAPORE. MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC AIR TRANSPORT CORPORATION, ENCLOSED WITH REPLY, INDICATE FIRM INCORPORATED HERE DECEMBER 13, 1968 WITH KWOK CHUENG KWONG AS PERMANENT DIRECTOR, OTHER DIRECTORS BEING KWOK YEUNG, POON YUNG AND LAM CHEE (ACCORDING TO CONGEN'S A-805, 10/18/68, KWOK YEUNG IS BROTHER, AND POON YUNG IS WIFE, OF KUO WEN-CH'UAN, IE KWOK CHEUNG KWONG). CONGEN CHECK LAST WEEK WITH HONG KONG REGISTRAR INDICATED THESE DIRECTORS DISQUALIFIED ON DECEMBER 2, 1969, NO REASON GIVEN, BUT CONGEN PRESUMES THIS WAS BECAUSE NO DIRECTOR ELECTED AND THAT FIRM HAS BEEN INACTIVE.

3. CONGEN REQUESTS GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT RE APPROPRIATE REPLY TO ANKAN. POSSIBLE RESPONSES AS SEEN HERE INCLUDE:
A) THAT ANKAN APPLY FOR EXIM FINANCING, WITH SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD BE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE TO PROCEED WITH ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE OF BOEING; B) THAT ANKAN'S INTEREST IS PREMATURE SINCE JETFOIL NOT AVAILABLE IN NEAR FUTURE (THE TWO BOEING JETFOILS ORDERED BY SHUN TAK SHIPPING CO, FOR USE ON THE HONG KONG-MACAU RUN, WILL NOT BE DELIVERED UNTIL SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1974). THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSULT BOEING FOR CONFIRMATION OF THIS AND OTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY BEAR ON ANKAN'S CASE.
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